

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00653 161129Z

46

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 EA-06 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 AID-05

MC-01 ACDA-05 AEC-05 OMB-01 CIEP-01 DRC-01 /089 W  
----- 007385

R 160830Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4511  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0653

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BY, US

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT MICOMBERO

SUMMARY: "SOCIAL GATHERING" BETWEEN MICOMBERO AND FOREIGN  
AMBASSADORS OCTOBER 12 PROVED OCCASION FOR REPEATED JIBES AT  
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ABOVE ALL AT U.S. AND USSR, ALONG LINES  
WHICH CONVEYED STRONG PEKING (AND PERHAPS MOBUBU) FLAVOR. ALTHOUGH  
I SOUGHT TO PARRY THE JABS DURING THE BOUT, I AM NOW SENDING INFORMAL  
LETTER OFFERING TO MEET PRIVATELY TO REVIEW THE RECORD OF U.S.  
POLICIES

ON LDC'S AND ON ANY OTHER ISSUES WHICH DISTURB HIM. CONSENSUS IS  
THAT MICOMBERO WAS POSTURING FOR BENEFIT OF AFRICAN AMBASSADORS  
PRESENT (ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM ZAIRE AND TANZANIA), AS WELL AS  
PERHAPS FOR CHINESE. END SUMMARY.

1. MICOMBERO ATTENDED FINAL SEGMENT OF OCTOBER 12 MEMORIAL  
CEREMONY FOR ORIGINAL UPRONA LEADER, PRINCE LOUIS RWAGASORE,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00653 161129Z

ASSASSINATED IN 1961, AND THEN PASSED INVITATION TO ASSEMBLED

AMBASSADORS TO GATHER IN GARDEN OF HIS NEARBY RESIDENCE FOR A DRINK. GROUP GATHERED IN ELONGATED OVAL WITH MICOMBERO IN CENTER, WITH ZAIRE AND THEN RWANDAN AMBASSADORS ON HIS RIGHT AND WITH VISITING TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR ON HIS LEFT. FRENCH, SOVIET, U.S., CHINESE, AND GERMAN AMBASSADOR SAT SIDE BY SIDE WITH REMAINDER OF ENVOYS AND SOME MINISTERS ARRAYED AT RANDOM.

2. STRONG THEME OF MICOMBERO'S SELF-SATISFIED "BANTER" WAS AFRICAN SOLIDARITY, UNDERScoreD BY SEVERAL REFERENCES TO "MY BROTHER MOBUTU" AND TO LATTER'S 1973 ADDRESS TO UNGA, IN WHICH HE HAD RIGHTFULLY DENOUNCED INJUSTICE OF SECURITY COUNCIL SETUP GIVING FIVE COUNTRIES "RIGHT TO RULE THE WORLD." MICOMBERO REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT AFRICANS HAVE HUMAN COMPASSION AND SPEAK FROM THE HEART, IN CONTRAST TO PEOPLE FROM INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WHO ARE COLD, MECHANIZED, TECHNOLOGY-ORIENTED, AND UNCONSCIONABLY WEALTHY.

3. WITHIN THESE LINES, BULK OF 90-MINUTE SESSION WAS ADDRESSED TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND ME, WITH OCCASIONAL JIBE AT FRENCH AND WEST GERMANS THROWN IN. CONTEXT OF DECRYING TWO SUPERPOWERS' HEGEMONY (WITHOUT EVER USING THAT WORD) SEEMED FAITHFUL RENDITION OF PEKING LINE, THOUGH SOME COLLEAGUES INDICATE THAT THEME IS ALSO AKIN TO MOBUTU'S. FURTHER CURRYING OF FAVOR WITH CHINESE CAME WITH QUERY TO ME ABOUT WHY U.S. KEPT THE PRC FROM EXERCISING ITS RIGHTS OVER TAIWAN, "A PROVINCE OF CHINA." (THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT THE PRC WOULD NEVER ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AS LONG AS WASHINGTON RECOGNIZED THE "PUPPET REGIME" ON TAIWAN, AND I REJOINED THAT SINCE THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE HAD MADE CLEAR THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF THE U.S. AND PRC ON TAIWAN, THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THIS QUESTION WAS PREVENTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN PEKING AND WASHINGTON.)

4. MICOMBERO BERATED THE U.S. AND USSR FOR WASTING HUGE SUMS ON ARMAMENTS, FOR EXPANDING THEIR NUCLEAR ARMS STOCKPILES WHILE TRYING TO DEPRIVE EVERYONE ELSE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS, FOR SHADOWBOXING AT BILATERAL DISARMAMENT TALKS, FOR NEGLECTING IMPOVERISHED LDC'S, AND FOR BEING DETERMINED TO FORCE DIVIDED COUNTRIES (GERMANY, KOREA, AND VIETNAM) TO REMAIN DIVIDED. HE SAID THAT RWAGASORE HAD BEEN KILLED "BY IMPERIALISTS," AND THEY COULD OF COURSE MURDER ANYONE, BUT RWAGASORE'S IDEAS, IDEALS, AND WISDOM COULD NOVER BE CRUSHED, ANY MORE THAN THIS HAD BEEN POSSIBLE IN CASES OF LINCOLN AND MARX.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUJUMB 00653 161129Z

IMPERIALISTS (HE CLEARLY MEANT U.S. AND USSR) ARE AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR THEIR OWN PRIVILEGES.

5. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND I INDIVIDUALLY FENDED OFF THE BRICKBATS, WITH AN OCCASIONAL ASSIST FROM OUR FRENCH AND GERMAN COLLEAGUES. I REMINDED MICOMBERO THAT WITHOUT ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, MANY AMONG THE LDC MASSES WOULD BE DOOMED TO STARVATION, THAT THE SALT TALKS WERE A MOST EARNEST UNDERTAKING, THAT THE FATE OF DIVIDED COUNTRIES DEPENDED

ON THE WILL OF THE RESPECTIVE LEADERSHIPS (E.G., THE U.S. HAD WELCOME  
D  
THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA IN 1973), AS WELL AS THE  
RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE FRG AND GDR), AND THAT THE FACT THAT  
ALL COUNTRIES HAD KNOWN POLITICAL VIOLENCE MADE IT ALL THE MORE  
APPARENT THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL MODERATION AND TOLERANCE WERE  
CALLED FOR. I ALSO ASKED MICOMBERO TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MAJOR  
CONTRIBUTION WHICH AID DONORS, AND ABOVE ALL THE U.N. (THE UNDP  
ACTING RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE WAS PRESENT) WERE MAKING TO  
BURUNDI (WHICH MICOMBERO SOMEWHAT GRUDGINGLY DID).

6. COMMENT: THE GATHERING WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A PREPLANNED AND  
STAGED SHOW FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE OTHER AFRICANS PRESENT TO  
ENHANCE MICOMBERO'S "MAINSTREAM" CREDENTIALS, AS WELL AS TO SCORE  
BROWNIE POINTS WITH THE CHINESE AND NORTH KOREANS. SOME OF HIS  
REMARKS BORDERED ON THE INSULTING, AND THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR  
LATER TOLD ME THAT HE THOUGHT MICOMBERO'S STATEMENTS WERE ENTIRELY  
INAPPROPRIATE FOR SUCH A LARGE GATHERING, AND MIGHT BE EXPLAINED BY  
INEBRIATION. SOVIET AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS CLEARLY NONPLUSSED BY  
PERFORMANCE, SUGGESTED SIMILAR CAUSE, BUT I FOUND MICOMBERO QUITE  
LUCID. SEVERAL OTHER AMBASSADORS SAID THEY WERE GLAD THAT I HAD  
FORCEFULLY COUNTERED MANY OF MICOMBERO'S SALLIES.

7. MICOMBERO URGED SEVERAL TIMES THAT I REPORT HIS REMARKS TO  
WASHINGTON, AND I AM SO DOING FOR THE RECORD. I AM ALSO SENDING  
HIM AN INFORMAL LETTER IN WHICH I REGISTER SOME DISTRESS AT HIS  
ALLUSIONS TO AMERICAN POLICY AND STATE THAT I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY  
TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH HIM TO REVIEW THOSE AND OTHER SUBJECTS, IF HE  
DEEMS SUCH A SESSION USEFUL. IF HE TAKES UP MY OFFER, I WILL USE  
THE OCCASION TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT THE U.S. AND  
TO TRY TO GET ACROSS SOME OF THE FACTS OF LIFE ON BURUNDI'S  
MANY WEAKNESSES AND ON THE IMAGE IT MUST PROJECT IF, FOR  
EXAMPLE, IT IS TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT. BESIDES, IT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BUJUMB 00653 161129Z

MAY BE POSSIBLE GENTLY TO REMIND MICOMBERO THAT PEOPLE WHO  
LIVE IN PAPER THIN GLASS HOUSES SHOULD BE THE LAST TO THROW  
STONES ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS "HEART" AND "HUMAN RIGHTS."  
MARK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BUJUMB00653  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740294-0269  
**From:** BUJUMBURA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741043/aaaabknu.tel  
**Line Count:** 158  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by morefirh>; APPROVED <31 JUL 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT MICOMBERO SUMMARY: "SOCIAL GATHERING" BETWEEN MICOMBERO AND FOREIGN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BY, US, (MICOMBERO, MICHEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005